· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · ICELAND KR100 · NEW ZEALAND $2.00 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 33 AUGUST 29, 2005

INSIDE

Militant Fighting Fund
15% over goal, tops $68,000!
—PAGE 4

Dismiss 'retaliatory' lawsuit! say 'Militant' and Utah dailies

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY—By failing to carry out a federal judge's order, C.W. Mining and the International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU) have again demonstrated their "undeviating course to harass *The Militant*, squelch its First Amendment rights of free speech and of the press, and chill further reporting considered negative by [C.W. Mining] about the very public, ongoing labor dispute at the Co-Op Mine. Accordingly, their claims should be dismissed ***with prejudice***, and they should be ordered to reimburse *The Militant* all of the reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending this frivolous action."

That is how attorneys Randy Dryer and Michael Petrogeorge concluded the motion they filed here August 16 for dismissal of a lawsuit against the

Continued on page 4

Caracas: youth at world festival pledge to defend Venezuela

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND JACOB PERASSO

CARACAS, Venezuela—The 16th World Festival of Youth and Students concluded here August 15. Tania D'Amelio, national coordinator of the Youth of the Fifth Republic, which is affiliated with the governing party in this country, read the event's final declaration at the closing ceremony. More than 17,000 delegates from 144 countries took part, reported D'Amelio, a deputy in Venezuela's National Assembly.

Since the last international youth festival in Algeria four years ago, "the world's imperialist powers, with the U.S. government in the lead, have undertaken an aggressive and despicable offensive" against states they consider a threat and against the rights and living standards of working people in the imperialist countries, the statement said.

"Capitalism and imperialism, in deep crisis, are attacking most workers' rights," it continued. Washington and its allies have used the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and

Continued on page 3

UK rulers stunned by strike from nowhere

Airline workers protest firing of caterers

Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Gate Gourmet workers picket August 12 at London's Heathrow Airport. After company fired 800 unionists, British Airways workers went on daylong solidarity strike.

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—"Our fight is a fight for dignity and respect. We want our jobs but not at any price," said shop steward Sukhdev Singh Dhillon, speaking August 12 before a union meeting of hundreds of airline catering workers who had just been sacked (fired) by Gate Gourmet.

Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) greeted Dhillon's speech with chants of "We want justice!"

The unionists resolved to continue their fight for reinstatement and celebrated the solidarity they received from 1,000 baggage handlers, loaders,

Continued on page 9

New York City, Sunday, September 11

Four Years Later: Resisting U.S. Rulers' Global Assault on Workers and Farmers

❖ **Organizing and using union power:**

— Strengthening UMWA District 22: two-year miners' battle to organize Local 9957 advances at Co-Op mine in Utah

— Showdown looms between UMWA and Peabody Coal over mine-closing threat on Navajo Nation

— New blows dealt to mine bosses in Salt Lake City courtroom

— UFCW Local 789 in St. Paul takes on company denial of socialist candidate's leave to campaign for office

— "Red shirts" reappear in UNITE-organized Point Blank Body Armor plant in Florida

❖ **Is military option "on the table" against Iran? Or not? Conflicts intensify between Washington, Berlin, Paris, and London**

❖ **The IRA's stand-down in Ireland and accelerating crisis in Northern Ireland**

❖ **Defending space for working-class politics: pushing back "loyalty oath" in Pittsburgh, campaign disclosure in Seattle**

❖ **Talking communist politics at World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas: 435 copies of *New International* nos. 12 & 13 sold**

Speakers include

Jack Barnes national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

Jacob Perasso Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Paul; member of UFCW Local 789; recently returned from Caracas world youth festival

Member of UNITE-HERE Local 25-70 at Point Blank in Florida

Participants in World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas

Mary-Alice Waters president, Pathfinder Press; just returned from research trip to Cuba

Alyson Kennedy and Bill Estrada members of UMWA Local-9957-in-becoming at Co-Op mine in Utah and defendants in coal bosses' retaliatory suit

Dennis Richter organizer of SWP trade union work

Dave Prince on taking advantage of expanding political opportunities

Reception: 1 p.m. ❖ Program: 2 p.m. ❖ Refreshments afterward

NYU Law School, Tishman Auditorium, 40 Washington Square South

Sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and Young Socialists

Hosted by Socialist Workers Party in New York (212-629-6649) and Newark (973-481-0077)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL, OR VISIT WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

Pittsburgh SWP candidate meets striking unionists, discusses fights to strengthen labor

BY TONY LANE

LOYALHANNA, Pennsylvania—The Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, Jay Ressler, visited the picket line of strikers at the Airo Die Castings plant here August 10 to support their fight and discuss

Continued on page 7

Also Inside:

'Intelligent design': cover to undermine teaching of science in public schools 2

August 21 solidarity picnic to back Utah miners 5

Tel Aviv begins pullout of settlers from Gaza in Palestine 7

Two killed in roof collapse in Kentucky coal mine 7

U.S. president: war option against Iran 'on the table' 9

‘Intelligent design’: cover to undermine teaching of science in public schools

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the latest round of an ongoing political battle, the Kansas Board of Education on August 9 voted 6-4 to approve the draft for new science standards that, under the guise of “academic freedom,” include criticism of the scientific theory of evolution. The board is expected to take a final vote later this year.

The draft was applauded by right-wing forces that are promoting creationism in its latest repackaged form—dubbed “intelligent design.”

The new Kansas school standards avoid explicitly advocating the teaching of “intelligent design.” Its proponents instead promote criticism of evolution in the name of giving students a “balanced view.” In 1999, rightist forces won a vote in the Kansas board to delete most references to evolution from its state science standards. The decision was reversed two years later, however.

The ongoing battle over the teaching of evolution in the public schools was recently highlighted by well-publicized comments made by President George Bush. In response to a question at an August 2 White House interview, he said he favored making “intelligent design” part of the curriculum alongside evolution.

“Both sides ought to be properly taught,” the president stated, “so people can understand what the debate is about.” White House officials said “Bush’s comments were in keeping with positions dating to his Texas governorship,” the *Washington Post* reported.

Around the country, proponents of “intelligent design” have been campaigning to get that doctrine adopted by school boards, with only limited success. The issue is being fought out in school districts in some 20 states.

Last October the school district in the Pennsylvania town of Dover became the first in the country to mandate the teaching of “intelligent design” to biology students. This order is being challenged in federal court, with a hearing scheduled for September.

In Georgia, the Cobb County school system in 2002 adopted a policy of placing disclaimer stickers about evolution on textbooks saying, “Evolution is a theory, not a fact.” A judge last January overruled this move as unconstitutional.

Battle over teaching science

To avoid the appearance of trying to introduce religious views into the public schools, right-wing forces are now promoting the teaching of “intelligent design,” a more secular-sounding label for creationism. They claim that life is so intricate and complex that only a powerful “guiding force”—a “designer”—could have created it. The creationist myth, which has also been packaged as “creation science,” contends that a supernatural being produced humans and other species as told in the Bible.

Evolution is based on scientific investigation of the fossil record, anatomy, and genetic evidence. First outlined by Charles Darwin in 1859 in the book *On the Origin of Species*, it explains how species of animals and plants come into being and evolve over long periods of time through a process of natural selection. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, contemporaries of Darwin, hailed his study for examining nature in materialist and dialectical—not static—terms.

Today, one of the leading promoters of introducing “intelligent design” in public schools is the Seattle-based Discovery Institute, which says it has support not only from biblical creationists but also from numerous scientists who are skeptical of evolution. On its website the institute contends, “Intelligent design holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.”

The Discovery Institute disingenuously describes its efforts as a civil liberties campaign for “free speech on evolution.” Its actual goal, however, was spelled out by an outfit it initiated in 1996, the Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture, which said it “wants to liberate science from ‘atheistic naturalism,’ ” a 2002 article from *Natural History* magazine reported.

The recent moves against teaching evolution has been part of a decades-long ideological campaign, with rightist forces suffering a number of setbacks in their goal of imposing the teaching of creationism in public schools.

This campaign is one front in the efforts by rightists to foster irrational ideas, to whip up an emotional frenzy around the “decadence” of society in order to promote reactionary “solutions” to the social crisis caused by capitalism in decline.

Promoting such obscurantism is used to undermine hard-won democratic rights such as the separation of church and state, and to attack the scientific materialist understanding of the world that working people need to be able to change it.

In a famous 1925 trial in Tennessee, John Scopes, a young high school biology teacher, was convicted of violating that state’s law against teaching Darwin’s theory of evolution. Although the conviction was later overturned on a technicality, most biology textbooks throughout the 1930s eliminated references to “Darwin” or “evolution.”

In 1968 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down an Arkansas statute prohibiting the teaching of evolution. Two decades later, in 1987, the high court struck down the Louisiana “Creation Act,” ruling that teaching “creation science” in public schools is unconstitutional.

Thousands protest antiunion bill in Australia

Militant/Bob Aiken

SYDNEY, Australia—Some 30,000 people took part in an August 7 rally and picnic here organized by the trade union movement. The event was part of a national protest campaign against new antiunion laws to be placed before the incoming federal parliament. The government of Prime Minister John Howard announced sweeping changes that erode the minimum wage and open the way for bosses to cut premium pay for overtime, shift work, and weekend work, among other things. **—BOB AIKEN**

THE MILITANT

Read about Caracas world youth festival

Thousands of youth from around the world participated in the recent World Festival of Youth and Students in Venezuela. They discussed how to advance the fight against imperialism. The ‘Militant’ provides on-the-scene coverage. Don’t miss a single issue!

Cuban delegates march Aug. 8 at festival.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $10 for 12 weeks

❑ $20 for 6 months

❑ $35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, $A8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, $10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ$10 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

VOL. 69/NO. 33

Closing news date: August 17, 2005

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins, Martín Koppel, Luis Madrid, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, June, and September.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: **United States**: for one-year subscription send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $50 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address. **France:** Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 3,500 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kronor for one year. Domargränd 16, S-129 47 Hägersten, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

World Youth Festival

Continued from front page

Pentagon as an excuse to escalate their campaign of imperialist domination under the pretext of the "war on terror" and "struggle for freedom."

The final declaration called for solidarity with national liberation struggles, from Puerto Rico to Western Sahara and Palestine. It also called for actions to demand the immediate withdrawal of imperialist troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, south Korea, and other countries; an end to the occupation of northern Ireland by British troops; the reunification of Korea; compensation to the victims of the Agent Orange chemical sprayed by the U.S. Air Force over Vietnam during Washington's war against that country; and an end to Washington's economic war on Cuba. It expressed the delegates' solidarity with Venezuela's defense of its national sovereignty.

The closing day fell on the anniversary of the defeat of a recall referendum that was orchestrated last year by pro-imperialist opposition forces in this country to try to overthrow the government headed by President Hugo Chávez.

The Venezuelan government helped host the gathering. Chávez and other government officials took part in a number of its forums.

An anti-imperialist tribunal, held August 13–14 at the Poliedro arena, was the largest event of the festival. It was a mock trial of Washington and other imperialist powers, with Venezuelan vice-president José Vicente Rangel presiding. Testifying last, Chávez said the U.S. government had backed a short-lived military coup against his administration in April 2002 and an antigovernment lockout by employers a few months later. In both instances, the large sections of the domestic capitalist class that tried to topple the government were defeated because working people mobilized in the streets, dividing the military during the coup.

In his testimony, Bui Teh Giang detailed the lasting material damages and human toll that Washington's massive bombing and chemical warfare inflicted on the people of Vietnam.

Luis Rosa, a Puerto Rican anti-imperialist fighter who spent 18 years in U.S. jails for his activities, also addressed the tribunal, making the case for Puerto Rico's independence. His incarceration strengthened his resolve to fight U.S. colonial rule, he said, adding, "I am sure we will soon celebrate the freedom of our five Cuban comrades too."

Militant photos by Argiris Malapanis

Left, Ana López, a student from Cuba, speaks during discussion at "Gender Equality and the Struggle for Women's Rights Around the World" workshop August 10. Right, Tom Baumann sells *New International* from Young Socialists stand at youth festival.

Rosa was referring to five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the United States since 1998 after being convicted on frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Cuban government. An appeals court ruled August 9 that they had not received a fair trial, throwing out their convictions and ordering a new trial. In his testimony August 14, Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, called on the U.S. government to immediately free the Cuban Five, as they are known.

The tribunal issued a symbolic verdict condemning "U.S. imperialism and its allies for crimes against humanity and for posing a permanent threat to the survival of the human species."

The festival included many seminars, forums in solidarity with national liberation struggles, concerts, and other cultural performances.

A few thousand delegates visited several of Venezuela's provinces, where political events were held. The workshop on young peasants, for example, was held in San Carlos, capital of Cojedes state, where peasants have been waging persistent struggles for land.

During that trip, delegates visited Panaima, an area where more than 800 peasant families have been occupying land for seven years. They also visited clinics operated by Cuban doctors, who are offering quality medical care free of charge in working-class districts and rural areas across the country.

At the closing ceremony, Miguel Madeira, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the festival's main sponsor, said an international event to mark 60 years since the launching of the festivals will be held in Caracas in 2007.

Olympia Newton and Natalie Doucet contributed to this article.

Youth festival delegates snap up 435 NIs

BY DIANA NEWBERRY

CARACAS, Venezuela—Young socialists campaigned until the last minute of the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students to sell the two new issues of *New International*. Our efforts paid off. By the end of the eight-day gathering on August 15, we had sold 435 copies of the Marxist magazine in English, Spanish, and French.

Delegates to the festival would often pull up a chair by the Young Socialists booth, with its display of revolutionary literature, and start reading before deciding what to buy. The stand was part of the festival's Friendship Fair, held at the Teresa Carreño theater, where more than 300 exhibitors had booths.

An Angolan sat at the booth for four hours reading parts of *How Far We Slaves Have Come* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro and *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky. At the end, he walked away with those two titles, issues 12 and 13 of *New International,* and a stack of other books and pamphlets.

Sales of *New International* got a boost when YS members spoke at workshops. Annalucia Vermunt of the Young Socialists in New Zealand was on a panel on "Gender Equality and the Struggle for Women's Rights Around the World," which some 2,000 delegates attended. In her presentation, Vermunt quoted from a section of the Socialist Workers Party resolution "Their Transformation and Ours" published in *New International* no. 12. Titled "Historical Trends and Proletarian Strength," it describes how, as women become integrated into the workforce, barriers to women and men working together as equals are breached around the world. That was one of our best days in *NI* sales, with nearly 40 copies purchased.

Young Socialists from seven countries also set up literature displays—often on towels on the ground—outside many seminars. Stopping by one such display, Amal Fareed of the Democratic Youth Union of Bahrain described recent protests in her country demanding the closure of a U.S. military base. She became interested in the maps and graphs in *NI* no. 12 that depict the changing global posture of Washington's imperialist armed forces. After reading the section "Exhaustion of Alternatives to Revolutionary Leadership," Fareed bought both *NI* issues.

Many of those who bought the Marxist magazine asked YS members to stay in touch. Limam Boicha and Taoufik Salama, youths from Western Sahara who live in Spain, bought the two *NIs* in Spanish, along with *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara, a leader of the 1983–87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso, and said they would like YSers to visit them.

Some, like a student from Colombia, joined Young Socialists in selling revolutionary literature. Others, like Patricio Parra and Julian Sánchez, students at the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas, invited YS members to join political meetings at their school.

Besides *New International*, we sold 650 books and pamphlets on revolutionary politics. *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes was number one, with 53 copies sold. It was followed by titles on the Cuban Revolution and on the fight for women's liberation, and by Malcolm X and Sankara. Books by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Trotsky were also popular. More than 150 delegates purchased subscriptions to the *Militant.*

As the festival was closing, we ran out of both new issues of the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional.* Diego García, a student in Caracas, came by the YS booth several times hoping that at least one copy of the magazine would turn up. As it became clear none were left, he said he will plan to be among the first to visit the Pathfinder Press booth at the Caracas book fair in November.

New International sales campaign March 26 – August 22

Country	Quota	Sold	%
CANADA	**150**	**156**	**104%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	**200**	**216**	**108%**
Edinburgh	55	49	89%
UK total	**255**	**265**	**104%**
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	**55**	**53**	**96%**
Christchurch	20	15	75%
N.Z. total	75	68	91%
AUSTRALIA	60	50	83%
SWEDEN	45	37	82%
UNITED STATES			
Houston	**105**	**104**	**99%**
Chicago	**115**	**109**	**95%**
Washington	100	94	94%
Atlanta	115	106	92%
Twin Cities	140	129	92%
Philadelphia	100	91	91%
Miami	110	98	89%
Seattle	130	109	84%
New York	325	258	79%
Los Angeles	225	173	77%
San Francisco	205	155	76%
Newark	125	94	75%
Birmingham	95	71	75%
Price, UT	61	43	70%
Des Moines	105	74	70%
Boston	120	84	70%
Pittsburgh	100	57	57%
Salt Lake City	15	7	47%
U.S. total	2291	1856	81%
ICELAND	32	18	56%
World Youth Festival	**250**	**435**	**174%**
pathfinderpress.com	200	135	68%
Int'l totals	**3358**	**3020**	**90%**
Goals/Should be	**3350**	**3198**	**95%**

—*MILITANT LABOR FORUMS*—

IOWA

Des Moines

Report from World Youth Festival in Venezuela Speaker: Mike Slavik, Young Socialists, just returned from Venezuela. Sat., Aug. 27. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel: (515) 255-1707*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Public Service Strike in Tonga Fri., Aug. 26, 7:00 p.m., Donation: $3, *7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Tel: (09) 276-8885*

330 'New Internationals' to go in final stretch of campaign!

PAUL PEDERSON

In the final stretch of the campaign to sell 3,350 copies of the two newest issues of *New International* magazine, we have broken the 3,000 mark. Now, in the final week, an all-out effort is needed in every city to sell the 330 that remain to meet the goal.

In the Twin Cities, 13 copies of *New International* were sold the past week. "We called all of those who subscribed to the *Militant* during the spring subscription drive," said Tom Fiske. "That brought in seven. Then two young people who've been reading the *NI* asked to take some copies with them to sell. One of them sold two copies at the bakery where she works. The other sold a copy to a friend." Fiske said they sold the rest at an Ecuadoran Independence Day festival and on door-to-door sales.

Campaigners from Georgia and Alabama sold 20 copies of *New International* at an August 6 march in Atlanta in defense of voting rights that drew some 13,000 people.

‘Militant,’ Utah dailies: Dismiss ‘retaliatory suit!’

Continued from front page

Militant and numerous other defendants by C.W. Mining and the company-associated IAUWU.

The lawsuit charges the *Militant* with defaming the company in its almost weekly coverage of the now 23-month-long union-organizing battle at the Co-Op mine near Huntington, Utah.

Also charged with defamation are two daily papers, the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret Morning News, which filed a joint motion August 15 to dismiss what their brief calls the company’s “scattershot, sweeping, and retaliatory claims.” (The legal briefs filed by all three papers are available at www.themilitant.com)

Didn’t comply with judge’s order

The C.W. Mining lawsuit was initially filed in September 2004 and amended in December of that year. Sixteen individual Co-Op miners, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), and many of their supporters in the labor movement are being sued. Defendants targeted by the coal bosses also include the *Militant*, and two Salt Lake City dailies. These papers have quoted what workers had to say about work and safety conditions and the fight for a union. The *Militant* has regularly featured the miners’ struggle to be represented by the UMWA and to be reinstated to their jobs.

In June 2005 a hearing was held in Federal District Court in Salt Lake City on motions to dismiss filed by the two Salt Lake City papers and by the *Militant.* Judge Dee Benson ordered the plaintiffs to rewrite their lawsuit, which he said was “insufficiently precise to stand as a complaint…from which litigation can proceed.” Giving the coal company’s lawyers 30 days to submit a new complaint, the judge cautioned them to avoid the “scatter gun” approach of their earlier filing. He told the lawyers to “parse [their claims] down into a manageable lawsuit.”

In the rewritten complaint, in addition to again claiming all defendants have defamed the company, C.W. Mining charges the UMWA and Co-Op miners with unfair labor practices. It also accuses individual miners named as defendants of immigration “fraud.” Allegations against various defendants for intentional interference with economic activity, negligence, and civil conspiracy have been revised to include the *Militant*, which is also now accused of invasion of privacy.

In their reply, attorneys for the *Militant* explain that the plaintiffs “failed entirely to comply with the June 14 Order, submitting a Second Amended Complaint that is every bit as ‘vague’ and imprecise as their First Amended Complaint.”

The response notes that the plaintiffs’ complaint—70 pages and 224 paragraphs long—alleges “entirely new causes of action” and adds “approximately eight new articles/editorials to its already extensive list of alleged defamations by *The Militant*.” The complaint “(1) attempts to complicate, rather than simplify this lawsuit, and (2) continues the same ‘scatter gun’ approach previously rejected by this Court.” In all, the new company lawsuit cites 75 articles from the *Militant.*

The *Militant*’s reply notes that company and IAUWU attorneys Carl Kingston and Mark Hansen made “an apparent attempt” at complying with the judge’s order in relation to the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News* by considerably reducing the number of alleged defamations against those papers and attempting to say which statements contained alleged defamations. “There is no legitimate excuse” for the coal company’s lawyers not to have similarly parsed down its claims and allegations against the *Militant*, the reply says.

“All the Plaintiffs have really done is reorganize their allegations by coal miners, UMWA representatives, other union supporters, newspapers, correspondents, or other alleged speakers, rather than by date.”

Militant/Luis Astorga

Co-Op miners, who are fighting for UMWA representation in Huntington, Utah, picket April 13 along with retired miners at C.W. Mining’s Rail Co. Load Out facility.

The *Militant*’s attorneys cite a lengthy quote from a July 20, 2004, *Militant* news article signed by Anne Carroll and Guillermo Esquivel, which is again copied word for word into the new lawsuit. “There are at least thirteen (13) discrete factual statements contained in the paragraph quoted,” the reply points out, “yet Plaintiffs make no effort to identify which of these numerous ‘facts’ it contends is false, or why the false ‘fact’ is defamatory or exposes Plaintiffs to public hatred and ridicule.”

Constitutionally protected opinion

As they did in their answer to the first amended complaint, the *Militant*’s attorneys note that articles in the *Militant* about the labor battle at the Co-Op mine are not defamatory according to the law.

In the context of a heated labor dispute, the brief explains, “each of the statements published by *The Militant* regarding the Co-Op Mine dispute either: (1) do not convey any defamatory meaning; (2) constitute statements of opinion which are not capable of being objectively verified as true or false; (3) constitute reports of official government proceedings privileged under Utah law; and/or (4) with few exceptions, are not ‘of and concerning’ the individually named plaintiffs.”

In the rewritten lawsuit, the bosses’ attorneys try to bolster the claim that *Militant* articles are defamatory by saying the paper “is an avowedly… socialist publication” well known for publishing prolabor articles “from a socialist perspective.” The response by the *Militant*’s attorneys states that the paper is “a news weekly distributed to those who have a particular interest in labor issues and issues of workers’ rights, and who expect that its articles/editorials will be written with a pro-labor slant. The readers of *The Militant* are particularly used to the type of polemicizing commonly spoken and expected in the context of long, heated labor disputes, and would understand the statements published by *The Militant* as a continuation of the heated debate surrounding the on-going labor dispute at the Co-Op mine.”

The *Militant*’s brief explains that statements of opinion are protected under the law. This includes not only editorials but news articles, which “convey the statements and opinions of those workers who have been involved in the labor dispute at the Co-Op Mine,

Continued on page 5

S.F. longshore local backs Militant Fighting Fund

C.W. Mining, owner of the Co-Op coal mine in Huntington, Utah, has filed a harassment lawsuit targeting individuals and unions involved in or supporting the fight of the workers there to organize into the United Mine Workers union. The Militant Fighting Fund was launched to help defend the Militant*, a prominent target of the coal boss’s suit. Endorsements and contributions to the $60,000 fund-raising campaign can be sent to the Militant Fighting Fund, P.O. Box 520994, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0994. Materials on the case are posted on www.themilitant.com*

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO—More than 100 members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 heard supporters of the Militant Fighting Fund explain the stakes in the fight against the Co-Op mine owners’ lawsuit at an August 9 meeting of the local’s executive board. Local president Trent Willis reports that the local decided to endorse the fund.

Earlier Willis and the secretary-treasurer of the local, Aron Wright, also endorsed. Local 10 is a strong supporter of the Co-Op miners. Seventeen members of the local’s drill team traveled from here to Huntington, Utah, in February 2004 to participate in a “Day of Solidarity” with the miners.

Willis recounted how he had gone with the drill team to Utah “in a snow blizzard” to support the miners, and how a copy of the *Militant* with the picture of the drill team in Utah had been posted in the union hall afterwards. He said defending the *Militant* against the mine owner’s suit is important to defending free speech and allowing unions to get out their message when they are in a fight.

Mike Casey, president of UNITE HERE Local 2 in San Francisco, also endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund. The hotel workers are currently in a fight to win a decent contract from San Francisco hotel owners. When Co-Op miners toured here in 2004 the 9,000-member local contributed $5,000 to the strikers.

José Sandoval, a member of Teamsters Local 665, also endorsed. Sandoval was one of the leaders of a strike by workers at Avis Rent-A-Car earlier this summer. He is also coordinator of Voluntarios de la Comunidad, a group of workers in San Jose who met with Co-Op miners during their 2004 tour.

From Georgia, new endorsers include Joseph Lowery, president emeritus of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Willie Head, a farmer; Gladys Williams of the Peoples Tribunal of Valdosta; and Melvin Bishop and Willie Adams of the African-American Family Farmers. *From Canada*, the Toronto and York Region Labour Council added their name and contributed $200 to the Militant Fighting Fund.

* * *

The Militant Fighting Fund has gone way over the top by the August 15 deadline, with $68,788 of the $60,000 goal collected. The fund-raising campaign got a significant boost from supporters around the world with the work in recent weeks to explain the *Militant* defense campaign and secure endorsements for this labor defense and freedom of the press case.

OVER THE TOP in $60,000 drive for Militant Fighting Fund!

Country/City	Quota	Collected	%
CANADA	**2,450**	**2,900**	**118%**
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	**1,100**	**1,200**	**109%**
Christchurch	**400**	**500**	**125%**
N.Z. total	**1,500**	**1,700**	**113%**
United States			
Los Angeles	**4,000**	**5,022**	**126%**
New York	**8,500**	**9,990**	**118%**
Newark	**1,800**	**2,110**	**117%**
Salt Lake City	**1,400**	**1,633**	**117%**
Twin Cities	**2,000**	**2,297**	**115%**
Birmingham	**750**	**820**	**109%**
Seattle	**4,400**	**4,810**	**109%**
Washington, D.C.	**2,000**	**2,180**	**109%**
Boston	**3,000**	**3,200**	**107%**
Des Moines	**1,200**	**1,240**	**103%**
Atlanta	**3,750**	**3,858**	**103%**
San Francisco	**6,000**	**6,150**	**103%**
Houston	**3,000**	**3,045**	**102%**
Price, UT	**1,000**	**1,006**	**101%**
Pittsburgh	**3,500**	**3,510**	**100%**
Miami	**2,450**	**2,453**	**100%**
Chicago	4,700	4,462	95%
Philadelphia	3,400	3145	93%
U.S. Other		1,687	
U.S. total	**56,850**	**61,568**	**108%**
Australia	**1,200**	**1,225**	**102%**
ICELAND		40	
SWEDEN		160	
UNITED KINGDOM		145	
International total	**62,000**	**68,788**	**115%**
Goal/Should be	**60,000**	**60,000**	**100%**

— GREAT SOCIETY

He obviously fit the 'profile'—A year ago July, Frank Labato was shot dead by a Denver cop. Police said they were responding to a family fracas.

Harry Ring

Armed cop Ranjan Ford burst into Labato's bedroom. Bed-ridden, Labato was watching TV and sipping a can of soda. Ford fired instantly. Later he claimed he thought the soda can was a gun. This past August 4, Denver's "safety manager" announced that Ford will be suspended for 90 days without pay. Two other cops on the scene received verbal reprimands.

How broad-minded—"Gay clergy can 'marry' but no sex." *Times* of London headline on Church of England report.

And the rest of the country?—Several nonprofit research groups have compiled figures on the poverty of children in Louisiana. The New Orleans *Times Picayune* compiled the data. Only Mississippi has a higher poverty rate. But half the children in Louisiana are living in homes with incomes below the official poverty line. Declared one researcher: "Louisiana is getting worse faster than the rest of the country."

How generous—In the Washington, D.C., jail system, Joseph Heard was released after being wrongly behind bars for nearly two years on "errors." Initially homeless, he was jailed on a trespassing charge. On his release, the city awarded him more than $1 million. Heard is deaf and mute.

Only the best conditions—"In the past ten years, 804 men and women prisoners, including 17 children, killed themselves in jail in England and Wales."—*The Times*, London.

Pst! A Top Dogs union?—John Mack, who holds two top-dog titles, is modifying his take-home bundle at Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street firm that wallows in money. Mack's yearly pay will no longer be pegged to the average salary of top dogs at four other super-rich companies, which would guarantee a comfortable $25 million. Instead, it will be based on the brokerage's performance.

U.S. troops to leave Uzbekistan base in six months

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The government of Uzbekistan announced July 29 that U.S. forces have six months to leave the Karshi-Khanabad airfield, a base established in that Central Asian republic in the lead-up to the 2001 U.S. invasion of neighboring Afghanistan.

In the week prior to the announcement, the Pentagon secured the rights to continue using a military base in neighboring Kyrgyzstan and to refuel its aircraft at sites in Tajikistan following a round of visits to the two nations by U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"We always think ahead. We'll be fine," said Rumsfeld, when asked what impact losing the base would have on U.S. military operations. Rumsfeld told airmen during a visit to the Manas Air Force Base in Kyrgyzstan that they should expect to be there for "a good while yet," the American Forces Press Service reported. That facility is expected to shoulder some of the functions that the base in Uzbekistan filled.

In May the Uzbek army brutally repressed protests in the province of Andijan. Troops opened fire on unarmed demonstrators, killing an estimated 500 people or more.

For several weeks U.S. officials refrained from criticizing the government for the slaughter, but apparently they decided that the political price Washington was paying for its close relations with the Uzbek regime outweighed the military advantages of the airfield.

In June, U.S, officials joined calls for an inquiry into the massacre, prompting the Uzbek government to begin restricting U.S. use of the base.

"The United States…does not believe that its strategic interests and its interest in democracy are divisible in some way," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said July 26. "I don't think the Uzbeks are at all confused by that."

Over the past several years Washington has expanded greatly its military presence in Central Asia. In addition to its bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, U.S. planes are allowed to land and refuel aircraft at facilities in Tajikistan, which shares a long border with Afghanistan. U.S. troops are also stationed in Georgia, and talks are underway to establish a U.S. base in Azerbaijan. This is in addition to 18,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan and use of military bases in Pakistan.

The Pentagon is negotiating with the governments of several other former Soviet bloc countries, including Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Romania, to probe establishing U.S. bases.

These moves are part of Washington's effort to situate its forces closer to regions where it anticipates greater need to use its military might. They aim to further reduce the influence of Moscow and weaken Paris and Berlin's weight in Europe.

Moscow, for its part, has sought to capitalize on the frictions between Washington and the Uzbek government to buttress its steadily eroding position in the region. At a July meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which includes Beijing, Moscow, and the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, the trading bloc called for a timetable on the withdrawal of U.S. bases from the region.

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. troops board a C-130 Hercules at Karshi-Khanabad airfield in February. While U.S. forces will be leaving this base in Uzbekistan, the Pentagon has secured rights for long-term use of military base in Kyrgyzstan and aircraft refueling sites in Tajikistan.

'Militant,' dailies: Dismiss retaliatory suit!

Continued from page 4

and depict their individual beliefs and subjective observations about the treatment they have personally received at the mine."

C.W. Mining and IAUWU attorneys repeatedly used selective quotation, leaving off the beginning or end of sentences attributing a statement to a Co-Op miner or one of their supporters. In this way the company hoped to "prove" that reports in the *Militant* about poor working conditions were knowingly false statements by the newspaper itself, rather than legitimate reporting on views and experiences of workers fighting for a union at the mine.

During the June 14 hearing, the judge warned C.W. Mining's attorneys that "the burden is on the Plaintiffs to focus [the lawsuit] for the benefit of the people being sued, whose lives are disrupted by a lawsuit." In their reply to the rewritten lawsuit, the *Militant*'s lawyers say, "The Plaintiffs have now had two bites at the apple and remain unable to plead any actionable claims against *The Militant*."

Salt Lake papers respond

In their motion to dismiss the lawsuit, Michael Patrick O'Brien and Jeffrey Hunt, attorneys for the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*, tell the court that the company's amended complaint "still includes statements that are attributed to other parties, fails to identify which of the laundry-list of statements in each paragraph is false…. Plaintiffs have, in short, done nothing to overcome the substantive legal defects in their claims or fix the substantial confusion generated by their last Complaint."

The memorandum supporting the motion to dismiss goes through the plaintiffs' allegations one by one, pointing out why they cannot sustain a defamation claim. C.W. Mining's complaint, for example, says *Morning News* writer Marjorie Cortez "republished a false statement earlier reported in the *Arizona Republic,* that 'two Kingston Clan sons…were expected to work in the family mine as young as 12 years old.'" In their answer, attorneys for the dailies point out that the plaintiffs, among other things, "selectively edit this statement to eliminate specific quotes from and attribution of the statements to Louis Brown, *one of the children who worked in the mine."*

"This is Plaintiffs' third attempt to properly plead defamation claims against the *Tribune* and *Morning News*," the attorneys for the papers emphasize.

"The range of named and unnamed defendants includes everyone who has ever said anything in support of the miners or critical of the Kingston family," the dailies say. "Plaintiffs' transparently harassing claims and their inability to plead them with any clarity has already wasted this Court's time once and has caused the *Tribune* and *Morning News* to incur substantial expense in defending themselves. Unless Plaintiffs are held to account for this needless expense, the real purpose of this lawsuit—to chill legitimate news coverage and commentary on the Kingstons and their mine—will be fulfilled."

The judge will set a new hearing on the case after receiving replies by the plaintiffs to the briefs by the *Militant* and Salt Lake City dailies and counter-replies by the three newspapers.

8/21 picnic to back Utah miners' struggle

BY DAVE FERGUSON

PRICE, Utah—On Sunday, August 21, United Mine Workers of America District 22 is hosting a solidarity picnic for workers at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. The miners will celebrate two years of the battle to organize the UMWA there.

The picnic is taking place at the Huntington State Park. Food will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. and a program of speakers and a fund-raising raffle will be held. T-shirts with "Co-Op Miners—UMWA Local 9957—District 22—Here We Come—United Mine Workers of America" in English on the front and Spanish on the back will be available for $10.

Many retired miners from nearby East Carbon have donated raffle prizes. Miners report that a member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in Seattle called to say that a carload of workers from Washington State is coming.

For more information about the picnic or to send a message or contribution, contact UMWA District 22, 525 E. 100 S., Price, UT 84501; tel: (435) 637-2037, fax: (435) 637-9456.

The 1905 Russian revolution: dress rehearsal for 1917 victory

Workers on strike in Moscow during 1905 revolution. Newly emerged workers' soviets increasingly acted as an alternative government and an organizing center for the impending uprising.

BY SAM MANUEL

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1905 revolution in Russia. A massive strike wave swept across the Russian empire, starting in January, that rocked the tsarist monarchy. It reached its high point between October and December with peasant uprisings and urban insurrections.

Above all, the popular upsurge led to the emergence of embryonic organs of revolutionary state power—the soviets, councils of elected representatives of working people. It was a dress rehearsal of what would culminate in victory 12 years later in October 1917, when the Bolshevik party led workers and farmers to take power and opened the road to the world's first successful socialist revolution.

The tsarist monarchy in Russia had been the bastion of feudal reaction for all of Europe since the French revolution of 1789. By the opening of the 19th century its imperial subjects included Finland, Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, and the peoples of Central Asia.

Although serfs were emancipated from direct feudal bondage in 1861 to become "free" peasants, much of the land remained in the hands of the royal family and the nobility. In addition the peasants were saddled with "redemption payments" to the landlords that far exceeded the value of the land they received—land they already lived on and worked as serfs. By the early 20th century Russia had emerged as an imperialist power. While the big majority of the population was the rural toilers, a small but important urban working class had developed, concentrated in St. Petersburg and a few other industrial centers.

The main currents in the working-class movement were the two factions resulting from a 1903 split in the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party: a proletarian revolutionary party—the Bolsheviks—and the petty-bourgeois current known as the Mensheviks. The Bolsheviks had been steadily building a revolutionary party rooted in the factories, circulating its newspaper *Vperyod (Forward)*, and joining in working-class struggles and debates.

On Jan. 3, 1905, four workers were fired from an iron works in St. Petersburg. When the company refused to reinstate them workers struck, and sent delegations to other factories asking for support. Within a few days an estimated 174 workplaces involving 96,000 workers were on strike. Their demands included an eight-hour day, a minimum wage, abolition of forced overtime, double pay for overtime work, improvements in sanitary conditions, and medical aid.

The explosive character and spread of the strike was fueled by the oppressive social conditions. In 1904 the average workday in the factories was 11 hours, and 10 hours on Saturdays. The Russian monarchy's war with Japan for dominance of Korea and Manchuria took its toll in working people killed and maimed. War-time inflation reduced real wages by 20 percent.

As the strike spread the workers' demands became broader and more political: for a constituent assembly elected by a general vote; freedom of speech and assembly; an end to the war; abolition of redemption payments to landlords; amnesty for political exiles and prisoners; and compulsory state-funded education.

On January 9, some 150,000 striking workers and their families participated in a march to the tsar's Winter Palace to deliver a petition for their demands. Georgi Gapon, a priest and leader of a pro-government trade union, headed the procession. Without provocation, the tsar's troops gunned down workers carrying portraits of the tsar and Orthodox saints.

Reporting on the bloodbath from exile, V.I. Lenin wrote in the Bolshevik newspaper *Forward*, "The army vanquished the enemy by shooting prostrate workers. 'We have taught them a good lesson!' the tsar's henchmen and their European flunkeys from among the conservative bourgeoisie say with consummate cynicism. Yes, it was a great lesson," Lenin continued, "one which the Russian proletariat will not forget."

Workers responded with a new strike wave that involved nearly 3 million and spread throughout much of the country. They seized weapons from government arsenals and in several encounters the soldiers refused to fire on the workers.

The tsar offered to establish a consultative assembly to report on constitutional reform but the strike wave spread. The monarchy was further weakened by the defeat in May of its Baltic Fleet, which sealed Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War.

The Bulygin Duma

On August 6 the tsar decreed the establishment of the first Duma, a consultative body with no legislative powers. It was dubbed the Bulygin Duma for the tsar's interior minister, who was tapped to head the body. Only the wealthy landlords and merchants could elect Duma members directly. The peasants did so through indirect elections. The working class had no right at all to elect Duma members.

The liberal bourgeois parties called for boycotting the Duma. In an article entitled "The Boycott of the Bulygin Duma, and Insurrection," Lenin explained that class-conscious workers should support boycotting the Duma but with the aim of intensifying agitation for the overthrow of the monarchy and establishing a provisional revolutionary government.

A general strike began in late September with a walkout by printers in Moscow. They were joined by railway and telegraph workers who stopped all rail traffic and crippled the power of the government. Rising peasants burned 2,000 estates and distributed among themselves the food stocks the nobility had robbed from them. The revolutionary winds of October inspired struggles for self-determination among the oppressed nations—more than half of the empire's population.

Soviet of Workers' Deputies

The most significant development was the emergence of the St. Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies, composed of elected representatives from all factories. It was organized by the workers in several cities as an instrument of revolutionary struggle. The soviet increasingly acted as an alternative government and its leaders as organizers of the impending uprising.

At the end of October, in a further attempt to defuse the revolutionary onslaught, the tsar issued the October Manifesto. It promised basic liberties and a Duma based on a broad and general suffrage with legislative powers. The Petersburg soviet rejected it and issued an appeal to soldiers to join workers in preparation for the inevitable final showdown with the regime.

On December 3 elite troops surrounded the offices of the soviet and arrested its leaders. The defeat of an armed uprising in Moscow in mid-December brought the 1905 revolution to a close.

The Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks offered opposing perspectives on the significance of the soviets and their immediate implication for the revolutionary overthrow of tsarist despotism.

The Bolsheviks saw the soviets as potential institutions of revolutionary state power. They advocated conquest of power by the soviets and the establishment of a "revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry." The Mensheviks saw the soviets as simply organs of "revolutionary local self-government." They rejected any immediate struggle that aimed to bring to power a revolutionary government of workers and peasants.

Behind this difference were counterposed views on revolutionary strategy. All Russian Marxists agreed that the central tasks of the revolutionary movement were those historically associated with bourgeois-democratic revolutions—overthrow of the monarchy and institution of representative government based on universal franchise; abolition of all vestiges of feudal servitude; and establishment of freedom of speech, press, and association.

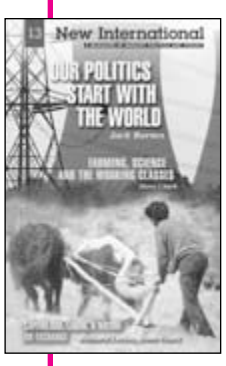
The Mensheviks argued that since the tasks of the revolution were bourgeois-democratic, the working class should not play the leading role and should not go beyond what was acceptable to the bourgeoisie. They insisted it would be impermissible for Social Democrats to participate in a provisional revolutionary government should the toiling masses take power.

The Bolsheviks put forward a different orientation. In a July 15, 1905, article entitled "The Democratic Tasks of the Revolutionary Proletariat," Lenin argued that while the bourgeoisie also desired political freedom, it feared that too radical a struggle against autocracy would result in the loss of its property; that workers would not stop at the democratic revolution but would aspire to a socialist revolution.

The task of the working class, Lenin wrote, "is to prod the bourgeoisie on, to raise before the whole people slogans calling for a complete democratic revolution, to start working boldly and independently for the realization of these slogans—in a word, to be the vanguard, to take the lead in the struggle for the liberty of the whole people."

The experiences of the 1905 revolution provided invaluable political lessons in revolutionary politics. The strategic differences between the courses advocated by the two main currents in the workers movement would be fought out over the next decade. In October 1917, the Bolsheviks successfully led the workers and peasants of Russia to power, changing the world forever.

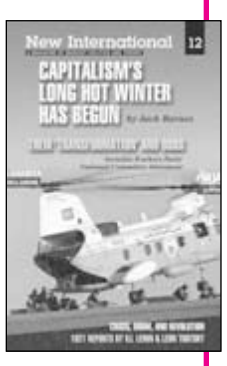
TWO NEW ISSUES OF 'NEW INTERNATIONAL'



Special offer—$25 for Both!

From 'New International' no. 13

"Electrification is an elementary precondition if modern industry and cultural life are to develop, and class-conscious workers fight for it to be extended to all the world's six billion people. This fight is a prime example of how proletarian politics, our politics, start with the world." —*Jack Barnes*



New International no. 12 (in Spanish: *Nueva Internacional* no. 6; In French: Nouvelle Internationale no. 7)—**$16**

New International no. 13 (in Spanish: *Nueva Internacional* no. 7; In French: Nouvelle Internationale no. 8)—**$14**

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

U.S. increases military aid to Colombia

BY HILDA CUZCO

The White House has approved new financing for the Colombian military as part of Plan Colombia, a program through which Washington has increased its military involvement in South America under the guise of combating anti-government insurgents and drug trafficking.

On August 1 the U.S. State Department issued a "certification" that the right-wing government of Colombian president Alvaro Uribe has made sufficient progress in "meeting statutory criteria related to human rights and severing ties to paramilitary groups."

The move opens the door for the release of $70 million that had been withheld for Washington's Plan Colombia, which since 1999 has provided billions in military and economic aid to the Colombian government. Washington is pressing for an additional $742 million to go to the Uribe government this year.

The program has made Colombia the third-largest recipient of U.S. military aid, behind Israel and Egypt. In the last five years Washington has funneled more than $4 billion to Bogotá and its armed forces.

On July 22, Uribe had signed the Justice and Peace Law. This legislation is aimed at demobilizing and pardoning 20,000 members of ultrarightist death squads, who, financed by wealthy landlords and businessmen, have functioned as an extralegal arm of the Colombian military. The rightist squads have killed thousands of trade unionists, peasants, and others.

The law assures that the vast majority will never face prosecution for their crimes. Of the 6,000 demobilized so far, only 25 face possible prosecution, according to Human Rights Watch. Even if convicted, they face a maximum sentence of five to eight years.

Meanwhile, Washington has continued to make known its hostility toward the government of President Hugo Chávez in Venezuela. In an August 3 interview with the Associated Press, U.S. undersecretary of state Nicholas Burns said Washington was concerned with what he described as Venezuela's "massive" arms imports. He expressed hope that Venezuela "will refrain from giving support to the FARC," referring to the largest of the anti-government guerrilla groups operating in Colombia.

Luis Acosta/AFP/Getty Images

Colombian right-wing troops turn in weapons. Regime seeks to demobilize and pardon 20,000 landlord-backed combatants, as Washington funds Colombian military.

Two killed in roof collapse in Kentucky coal mine

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH—Two coal miners lost their lives in a roof collapse August 3 at the Stillhouse Mining Mine No. 1, in Harlan County, Kentucky. Brandon Wilder, 23, and Russell Cole, 39, are the 11th and 12th coal miners killed on the job nationally this year.

State officials said a section of mine roof, 20 feet by 20 feet and 11 feet high, collapsed without warning. The mine has 73 employees, is owned by Black Mountain Resources.

The company was carrying out retreat mining, whereby as the mine advances, rooms are mined out and pillars of coal are left. Once the edge of the coal property is reached, the miners retreat, removing much of the pillars of coal. The mine roof then collapses as the miners back out.

Retired miner William Salyers, 65, who worked on the same coal seam in the past, told the Louisville *Courier Journal* that longtime miners have doubts about the safety of the process. "We got the grapes and left the vine," Salyers said. "But if there's a block of coal anywhere to be had, they're going to try and get it."

In a phone interview with the *Militant*, William Chapman, a former 20-year Kentucky coal miner and now organizer for the United Mine Workers of America, pointed out that retreat mining, "is dangerous work, even more dangerous when the price of coal goes up" and the coal companies step up their productivity drive.

J. Davitt McAteer, head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) under the Clinton administration, told the *Courier Journal* that the agency had considered banning or greatly restricting the use of retreat mining. "We never came to a conclusion," he said.

Kentucky mining regulators announced August 7 that they would commission a study of retreat mining. Almost half of the 252 mines in Kentucky are licensed for this method.

While mine deaths as a whole are down, the number of miners killed in roof falls has risen. Six of the 12 miners killed this year have been killed by roof falls—compared to one in 2003 and three in 2004. Two out of the three miners killed in roof falls in Kentucky last year died during retreat mining operations. In those cases MSHA reports pointed to hazardous mine roof conditions and the bosses' failure to report a problem and take preventive action.

Israel begins pullout of settlers from Gaza

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

Deploying 55,000 police and soldiers, the Israeli regime began its "disengagement" August 15 from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. Tel Aviv's plan to evacuate 9,000 settlers from 25 sites in the occupied territories is aimed at securing the long-term viability of Israel as a stable junior imperialist power in the region and consolidating its grip over settlement blocs encompassing 225,000 people on the West Bank.

The government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has faced bitter opposition from both within his Likud party and from other right-wing forces. The Israeli army estimates as many as 3,000 ultrarightists have made their way to the Gaza settlements to protest the withdrawal in spite of a military cordon blocking access to the area to nonresidents.

The Palestinian Authority, which has enforced a six-month-long cease-fire with Tel Aviv, is deploying some 7,500 military personnel of its own in Gaza during the evacuation to prevent armed actions against Israeli forces by the rival Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations. Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas has called for low-key celebrations of the Israeli pullout in order to "confirm to the world that we deserve a state." Tens of thousands have already rallied in Gaza in anticipation of the return of some of the land to Palestinians that was seized by Israeli forces in 1967.

The disengagement plan calls for the removal of all 8,500 Israeli settlers from Gaza, and 500 settlers from four locations in the West Bank. About 1.3 million Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip, and their resistance to Israeli control of the densely populated area has proven a security headache for the Israeli rulers.

Under the cover of this plan, Tel Aviv has escalated its offensive against groups organizing armed resistance to the Israeli occupation. It has built more than one-third of a 400-mile wall, annexing a section of the West Bank, which includes the largest Israeli settlement blocs.

The Israeli rulers' decision to move ahead with disengagement is a product of their inability to crush the Palestinian struggle, which remains at the heart of the class struggle in Israel and historic Palestine. At the same time, Tel Aviv's moves take advantage of the exhaustion of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a force capable of leading a revolutionary struggle for Palestinian national liberation. Instead, the PLO has focused on finding an accommodation with Tel Aviv and Washington.

Rightist opponents of disengagement in Israel have massed protests of as large as 150,000 in the weeks before the withdrawal. Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned from the cabinet in protest a week ahead of the evacuation of the settlements, charging the government with giving up territory without receiving sufficient Palestinian concessions in return.

Meanwhile, Sharon has made clear that the evacuation of less than 5 percent of the settler population is a step to consolidate Israeli domination, not toward Palestinian control over a larger territory leading to a sovereign Palestinian state. In an interview on Israeli television August 10, Sharon said, "I will not negotiate on the subject of Jerusalem. The [settlement] blocs will remain territorially linked to the State of Israel. At the same time, there will be no return of Palestinian refugees to Israel." Tel Aviv will also maintain control over all border crossings into Gaza.

Socialist on ballot in Pittsburgh

Continued from front page

building the labor movement today.

Five days later the Pittsburgh election board confirmed that Ressler's name would appear on the ballot. Ressler, a coal miner, had refused to sign an "antisubversive" pledge when he filed for ballot status.

Close to 300 workers, members of Laborers Local 1357, struck Airo Die Castings in June. Pickets said the company demanded concessions on health insurance, pensions, overtime premium pay, and bidding rights. The plant, about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh, makes parts for Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

One question that came up on the picket line during Ressler's visit was whether the reason for the predicament organized labor faces today is that the AFL-CIO doesn't do enough lobbying of politicians. "No, it's fights like the one you are waging that will strengthen the labor movement, not more lobbying of Democratic and Republican politicians," Ressler said in his exchange with the strikers. "They are the parties of the employers.

"Just as we organize unions to resist the bosses' attacks," he said, "workers need to organize in the political arena independently of the bosses. We need our own party, a labor party based on the unions, that fights for the interests of all working people."

Ressler noted other demands in the Socialist Workers platform that point to "the need to build a movement that can take political power out of the hands of the billionaire rulers, establish a workers and farmers government, and link up with the struggles of working people worldwide."

On August 11, the SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council in District 8, Cynthia Jaquith, joined a solidarity rally at the Laborers picket line. The event drew supporters from locals of the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, and United Mine Workers.

Jaquith, a meat packer, and Ryan Scott, a coal miner and the SWP candidate for Allegheny County Council in District 12, are running as write-in candidates.

‘Communist Manifesto’ speaks to workers today

Below is an excerpt from a 1937 introduction to the Communist Manifesto *by Leon Trotsky. The introduction by the Bolshevik leader noted then, as remains the case today, the freshness and relevance of the* Manifesto*’s most important sections. Pathfinder’s Spanish-language edition of this founding programmatic document of the modern communist movement is one of its Books of the Month for August.* *Copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

Militant/Terry Coggan

Striking unionists in New Zealand, October 2004. How does capitalism work? Why do workers organize unions? How can working people unite across national boundaries in their common interests? The *Manifesto* speaks to those crucial questions today.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

It is hard to believe that the centennial of the *Manifesto of the Communist Party* is only ten years away! This pamphlet, displaying greater genius than any other in world literature, astounds us even today by its freshness. Its most important sections appear to have been written yesterday. Assuredly the young authors (Marx was twenty-nine, Engels twenty-seven) were able to look further into the future than anyone before them, and perhaps than anyone since them.

Already in their joint preface to the edition of 1872, Marx and Engels declared that despite the fact that certain secondary passages in the Manifesto were antiquated, they felt that they no longer had any right to alter the original text inasmuch as the Manifesto had already become a historical document, during the intervening period of twenty-five years. Sixty-five additional years have elapsed since that time. Isolated passages in the Manifesto have receded still further into the past. We shall try to establish succinctly in this preface both those ideas in the Manifesto which retain their full force today and those which require important alteration or amplification.

1. The materialist conception of history discovered by Marx only a short while before and applied with consummate skill in the Manifesto, has completely withstood the test of events and the blows of hostile criticism. It constitutes today one of the most precious instruments of human thought. All other interpretations of the historical process have lost all scientific meaning. We can state with certainty that it is impossible in our time to be not only a revolutionary militant but even a literate observer in politics without assimilating the materialist interpretation of history.

2. The first chapter of the Manifesto opens with the following words: “The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.” This postulate, the most important conclusion drawn from the materialist interpretation of history, immediately became an issue in the class struggle. Especially venomous attacks were directed by reactionary hypocrites, liberal doctrinaires, and idealistic democrats against the theory which replaced “common welfare,” “national unity” and “eternal moral truths” as the driving force by the struggle of material interests. They were later joined by recruits from the ranks of the labor movement itself, by the so-called revisionists, i.e., the proponents of reviewing (“revising”) Marxism in the spirit of class collaboration and class conciliation. Finally in our own time, the same path has been followed in practice by the contemptible epigones of the Communist International (the “Stalinists”): the policy of the so-called People's Front flows wholly from the denial of the laws of the class struggle. Meanwhile, it is precisely the epoch of imperialism, bringing all social contradictions to the point of highest tension, which gives to the *Communist Manifesto* its supreme *theoretical* triumph.

3. The anatomy of capitalism, as a specific stage in the economic development of society, was given by Marx in its finished form in *Capital* (1867). But already in the *Communist Manifesto* the main lines of the future analysis are firmly sketched: the payment for labor power as equivalent to the cost of its reproduction; the appropriation of surplus value by the capitalists; competition as the basic law of social relations; the ruination of intermediate classes, i.e., the urban petty bourgeoisie and the peasantry; the concentration of wealth in the hands of an ever diminishing number of property owners at the one pole, and the numerical growth of the proletariat at the other; the preparation of the material and political preconditions for the socialist regime.

4. The proposition in the Manifesto condemning the tendency of capitalism to lower the living standards of the workers, and even to transform them into paupers, had been subjected to a heavy barrage. Parsons, professors, ministers, journalists, social democratic theoreticians, and trade union leaders came to the front against the so-called theory of impoverishment. They invariably discovered signs of growing prosperity among the toilers, palming off the labor aristocracy as the proletariat or taking a fleeting tendency as permanent. Meanwhile, even the development of the mightiest capitalism in the world, namely U.S. capitalism, has transformed millions of workers into paupers who are maintained at the expense of federal, municipal, or private charity.

August BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS 25% DISCOUNT

El Manifiesto Comunista
(The Communist Manifesto) by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Explains why communism is derived not from preconceived principles but from facts and from proletarian movements springing from the actual class struggle. $5.00
Special price: $3.50

Teamster Politics
by Farrell Dobbs

How rank-and-file Teamsters led the fight against antiunion frame-ups; the battle for jobs for all; and efforts to advance independent labor political action. $19.00
Special price: $14.00

Marxism and Terrorism
by Leon Trotsky
Why individual terrorism relegates workers to the role of spectators and opens the workers movement to provocation and victimization. $3.50 **Special price: $2.50**

Eugene V. Debs Speaks
by Eugene V. Debs
Speeches by the pioneer U.S. socialist agitator and labor leader. $24.00
Special price: $18.00

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for $10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL AUGUST 31

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmswp@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@yahoo.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St., West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEWYORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@yahoo.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@gmail.com **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@netscape.com

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@ev1.net

UTAH: Price: 11 W. Main St., Rm. 103. Zip: 84501. Tel: (435) 613-1091. utahswp@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-1315. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kbreykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@paradise.net.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: clchch@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bjulvägen 33, kv, S-122 41 Enskede. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@telia.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: First Floor, 3 Grosvenor St., Haymarket. Postal code: EH12 5ED. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

Imperialist hands off Iran!

Working people should unconditionally oppose the threats against Iran by the U.S., British, French, and German governments. President George Bush's warning regarding Iran that "all options are on the table"—an unambiguous threat of military assault—is a sharp reminder that Washington and its imperialist allies, despite the intensified disputes among them over how fast and how far to tighten the vise, are dead serious in their drive to prevent that nation from developing its nuclear energy industry.

The "inspectors" of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should get out of Iran now. The IAEA is simply acting as a worldwide police force to pressure Iran and other targeted countries into submitting to imperialist demands and abrogating their sovereign rights.

The latest moves by the three European powers and Washington to oppose the start-up of Iran's nuclear fuel plant in Isfahan are part of a broader campaign by the imperialist powers, carried out in the name of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to prevent semicolonial nations from developing whatever sources of energy they need for economic, social, and cultural development.

The U.S. rulers are also targeting north Korea, demanding that it not construct light-water nuclear power reactors. Meanwhile, Washington's allied regime in Seoul already has 20 such reactors and eight more under construction. And while Washington warns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea against developing nuclear weapons, the regime in south Korea has admitted it produced weapons-grade plutonium and uranium in tests conducted as recently as 2000.

Nuclear power, of all the available energy sources today, produces the greatest amount of energy with the least use of resources and the least atmospheric pollution. As the supplies of oil, natural gas, and coal diminish and the economic and environmental cost of their use increases, more and more countries are looking to develop nuclear energy.

Iran has large reserves of oil today. These, the major powers arrogantly claim, are enough for Iran. Working people should respond: no, only Iran has the right to decide what resources to develop and how—not the imperialist overlords. Secondly, the Iranian people's need to expand access to electrical power throughout the country is a real and growing need. The population of Iran has more than doubled since the 1979 revolution and Iran's capacity to generate electricity through its aging oil- and gas-based system has not kept pace. Washington knew this was true three decades ago, when the U.S. government agreed to help their puppet there, the shah, begin developing nuclear energy.

Iran's case is not unique. Two billion people—one-third of the world's population—have no access to modern electricity. Electrification, an elementary precondition for the development of modern industry and cultural life, must be extended to all of the world's 6 billion people. This is necessary to bridge the gap in economic and cultural conditions between toilers in the imperialist countries and colonial world. Supporting such efforts is essential to forge an international alliance of workers and farmers to fight for our common interests against the imperialist rulers and their worldwide system of exploitation and oppression.

The labor movement in the United States and internationally should side with Iran and other oppressed nations in their efforts to develop nuclear energy, and oppose the aggressive drive against them by Washington and its allies.

Imperialist hands off Iran and north Korea!

Bush: war option vs. Iran 'on table'

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The British, French, and German governments along with Washington have continued to press their threats against Iran since the Iranian government's decision to open a facility that is used for uranium enrichment. Last November, Tehran had agreed to suspend enrichment of the mineral—a necessary component of nuclear power production—pending the outcome of negotiations with the three European imperialist governments.

"All options are on the table," U.S. president George Bush said in an August 12 interview on Israeli television, when asked if Washington would consider launching a military assault against Iran. "The use of force is the last option for any president. You know, we've used force in the recent past to secure our country," he added, referring to the U.S. invasion and occupation of neighboring Iraq.

On August 10, at the demand of the Iranian government, the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) removed the seals on the Isfahan uranium conversion facility and Tehran resumed work there, monitored by IAEA "inspectors." The site converts raw uranium into uranium hexafluoride gas, which at the next stage is fed into centrifuges for enrichment. A second facility at Natanz, where the process is completed, remains closed.

On August 5 Paris, Berlin, and London attempted to forestall the move, delivering an "offer" they had promised since last fall. They demanded that Iran make a "binding commitment not to pursue fuel cycle activities other than the construction and operation of light water power and research reactors."

This would mean closing a number of Iran's nuclear facilities. The document demands that Iran stop construction of its heavy water research reactor at Arak, which it says "gives rise to proliferation concerns."

The three powers demanded that Tehran allow "IAEA inspectors to visit any site or interview any person they deem relevant to their monitoring of nuclear activity in Iran."

After shutting down its fuel cycle facilities, Iran would then be allowed, the imperialist proposal states, to purchase fuel for its nuclear plants from outside suppliers "at normal market conditions" provided the Iranian government agrees to "commit to returning all spent fuel elements of Iranian reactors to the original supplier immediately after the minimum cooling down period." Carrying out these demands would keep Iran dependent on imperialist powers for developing needed energy sources—precisely the dependence Iran seeks to loosen.

In exchange for meeting this demand, the European powers offered preferential trade agreements in a wide range of industries.

Paris, Berlin, and London made it clear this was in fact an ultimatum, simultaneously announcing their call for an emergency meeting of the IAEA board of governors to discuss possible economic sanctions if Tehran did not accede to the demands.

"Iran must honor the commitments it has made… suspending all activity, conversion, treatment, and enrichment of uranium," said French prime minister Dominique de Villepin before delivering the imperialist demands. "The [UN] Security Council will be called on if Iran refuses to comply."

The Iranian government rejected the deal. "What the Europeans have presented is basically not a proposal but an insult to the Iranian nation," said newly elected Iranian president Mahmood Ahmadinejad August 8.

The day after the Isfahan facility was restarted, the IAEA's 35-member board of governors met in an emergency meeting and unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that Iran suspend "all enrichment related activities."

In response, Iran's representative to the IAEA, Cyrus Nasseri, said the board's statement was the "most absurd manifestation of irony" given that the meeting was taking place on the 60th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nasseri noted that the only government that has unleashed nuclear weapons "has now assumed the role of the prime preacher in the nuclear field while ever expanding its nuclear weapons capability."

"In Iran it will not be long before we will have to utilize all our fossil fuel resources for domestic purposes," Nasseri said. Nuclear power is the "alternative for the future not only for Iran but for the whole world," he said.

UK rulers stunned by airline strike

Continued from front page

and bus drivers at British Airways (BA) who went on strike to support the catering workers.

The action by the British Airways workers grounded all of the airline's Heathrow flights for more than 24 hours and hit its worldwide operations, affecting 70,000 passengers.

The bosses were stunned. "For a union to take illegal action in sympathy for an illegal action is pretty amazing," said Gate Gourmet chairman David Siegel.

Two days earlier, Gate Gourmet, the airline catering giant, fired an estimated 800 workers when some 200 at one of the company's three sites at Heathrow Airport walked off the job to attend a union meeting in the canteen. The company sought to justify the sackings by claiming that in attending the meeting the workers were carrying out an illegal "unballoted strike action and a breach of contract."

"Workers had three minutes to return to work or face the sack," said shop steward Harinder Kaur Atwal, describing the company's threats. When the workers sat tight past this deadline, the bosses sent in goons to prevent workers from leaving the canteen "even if they needed to go to the loo" (bathroom), said Kam Olakh.

Harbinder Singh, who has worked at the company five years, said in an interview that when he intervened to protest the goons "dragging out a lady, Mrs. Bansal, they then physically removed me from the plant too. They also started filming the workers. The company had it all planned. They had sacking letters ready in various languages." Cops went in to up the pressure on the workers.

When workers turned up for the afternoon shift and met their just-fired brothers and sisters on the impromptu picket line, managers announced through loudhailers (bullhorns) that they too were being dismissed.

'They're trying to break the union'

"They're trying to break the union" said Mahendra Modi, who has worked four years at the plant. "They had a good plan but they underestimated us. They never expected that we'd stick together." Modi said the solidarity strike action by workers at British Airways was a "huge boost." In this country such so-called "secondary" actions are unlawful.

"The BA workers were right to strike," said Ashok Gill, with six years' service at Gate Gourmet. "The union will be finished at the airport if they get away with this. For years, people have been discussing the lessons of LSG when the workers didn't get that kind of support. They realize that they can't let that happen again."

The union at LSG Skychefs, another major catering company, was broken in an 18-month-long lockout that ended in 2000. Since then, the German-based LSG has driven down wages and working conditions, and has been able to undercut U.S.-based Gate Gourmet, formerly owned by British Airways, in the competitive contract catering business. In March 2005, Gate Gourmet (UK) lost a Virgin Atlantic contract to its rival.

Now Gate Gourmet is claiming it lost £22 million (US$39.8 million) last year and that without "restructuring" it will lose £25 million this year. The company has increased the number of jumbo jet flights the workers service daily from 42 to 72.

Ken Kaith, who has worked at Gate Gourmet for five years, told the *Militant* that the company is "proposing wage cuts of £2 [US$3.62] an hour, an end to overtime premia, a cut in yearly sick pay entitlement from 25 days to 5 days, a cut in holidays, more flexibility. It all came to a head this week because they brought in 130 temporary workers at the very time they're threatening cuts."

In the United States, Gate Gourmet is also cutting wages and slashing workers' holiday, pension, and health care benefits. The Teamsters and UNITE-HERE unions, representing 6,000 workers at Gate Gourmet kitchens at U.S. airports and Amtrak train stations, have been working without a contract for more than a year. Unions in the United States and continental Europe have sent messages of solidarity to the TGWU.

Solidarity messages can be sent to TGWU, Transport House, Uxbridge Road, Hillingdon, UB10 0LY. Tel: 020-8573-9494; fax: 020-8569-2292; email: pbouch@tgwu.org.uk